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Conference Addresses Wise and Safe Investing

Free luncheon speaker urges people to avoid free luncheon scams

MEMPHIS, TN -- There's no such thing as a free lunch, except at this free lunch.

AARP and the Tennessee Securities Division will offer a free box luncheon during a five-hour Investor Protection Forum on Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Memphis Marriott East Hotel, meant to help some 300 attendees avoid various scams and schemes aimed at wresting away their hard-earned money, including the so-called "free lunch" investment workshops.

Investment experts from the Better Business Bureau, the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs, the Tennessee Securities Division and AARP will explain how to research valid investments and the best ways to avoid bad business deals.

Some warning signs of a scam include the following promises:

- High return – and no risk!
- Your profit is guaranteed!
- TODAY only!
- For YOU only!
- Make the check out to me.
- I'll get you the paperwork later, and
- You'd be a fool to pass this by!

"Educating consumers on investment protection issues is extremely important to us," said Daphne Smith, Assistant Commissioner for the Tennessee Securities Division. "We are very excited to partner with the AARP and bring this valuable information to the Memphis area."

Millions of dollars are lost to investment fraud every year. Anyone - young or old, rich or poor - can be targets of fraud, but people over 65 represent a disproportionate number of victims.

That is why the AARP Foundation and the Investor Protection Trust teamed up to create

The Campaign for Wise and Safe Investing™. This national educational and awareness campaign strives to protect Americans against investment fraud which can erode retirement assets. For additional information, visit www.aarp.org/investmentfraud.

“Warren Buffet, one of the most successful stock investors ever, once said, ‘Risk comes from not knowing what you’re doing’,” said Tennessee AARP President Margot Seay. “He might have said, ‘it’s risky to rely on trust rather than homework,’ particularly when it comes to investing your hard earned money.”

With more than 710,000 members in Tennessee, AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, published bimonthly; AARP Bulletin, our monthly newspaper; AARP Segunda Juventud, our bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; NRTA Live & Learn, our quarterly newsletter for 50 + educators; and our website, www.aarp.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Tennessee Securities Division enforces the Tennessee Securities Act of 1980 to maintain the integrity of the securities market and to protect investors. The Division also promotes investor education and the prevention of securities fraud in the marketplace.

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